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REPORT OF COMMITTEE

APPOINTED TO

MATURE MEASURES FOR THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

This Committee (consisting of 66 Ministers and 22 Elders) met, by appointment of General Assembly, within St. Paul's Church, Montreal, on Wednesday, the 1st day of September, 1875, at noon, and was constituted with devotional services, by Dr. A. Topp, the Convener.

Forty-eight Ministers and twelve Elders were present, viz: Rev. Dr. Cook; Dr. Topp; Dr. Snodgrass; Dr. McVicar; Dr. Caven; Dr. Taylor; Dr. Jenkins; Dr. Bell; Dr. Bayne; Dr. Waters; Dr. Patterson; Dr. Cochrane; Dr. McNish; Prof. McKerras; Prof. Gregg; Prof. McLaren; Rev. Messrs. P. G. McGregor; G. M. Grant, M.A.; W. Reid, M.A.; W. Fraser; D. J. Macdonnell, B.D.; D. M. Gordon, B.D.; J. G. Robb, B.A.; J. M. King, M.A.; J. Smith; R. Campbell M.A.; W. Moore; J. Patterson; K. McLennan, M.A.; P. Wright; D. H. Fletcher; J. McCall; J. Laing, M.A.; T. Sedgwick; J. McTavish; J. K. Smith, M.A.; T. McPherson; J. Middlemiss; R. Ure; R. Torrance; J. Scott; J. Burton; A. Young; J. Hastie; J. Fowler, J. Gray, B.A., Ministers; and the Hon. J. McMurrieh; Judge Stevens; Messrs. R. Bell; G. Hay; A. Gordon, M.P.; T. McCrae; J. C. Thomson; Warden King; J. L. Morris; D. Morrice; J. Sterling; J. Croil, Elders.

The Rev. P. G. McGregor, of Halifax, and the Rev. John Gray, of Orillia, were appointed Joint Clerks of the Committee.

The Committee continued in Session till the evening of Wednesday, the 8th of September, and adopted the subjoined recommendations.

Generally, each subject was first considered fully and carefully by the Committee, and then remitted to a sub-Committee to frame a deliverance. This deliverance was submitted to the Committee, maturely considered, and thereafter adopted as a whole, or with such amendments as were deemed desirable.

The Committee agreed, as in accordance with the instructions of Assembly, to print the results of their deliberations for the information of Members of Assembly and Presbyteries. Dr. Topp, Rev. W. Reid and Rev. J. Gray were appointed a Committee for this purpose.

The following are the recommendations of the Committee:—

I.—MODE OF ELECTING THE MODERATOR OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Four plans were considered by the Committee—

1. Open nomination and vote of the General Assembly.
2. Nomination by Presbyteries.
3. Open vote of General Assembly, with the understanding that the retiring Moderator shall have the first nomination.
4. Committee of ex-Moderators, the ex-Moderators of the Supreme Courts, of the late four uniting Churches, with the present Moderator, to constitute, in the meantime, said Committee.

The *fourth* proposal was withdrawn, and the *first* was carried by a majority of votes in the following terms :

That in the opinion of this Committee, the method of electing the Moderator of the General Assembly, shall, *for the present*, be that of open nomination and vote at each successive meeting of the General Assembly.

II.—CLERKSHIP OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, PERIODICALS, AND AGENCY.

After the Report had been received by the sub-Committee on these subjects, the Committee agreed to recommend as follows :

I. CLERKSHIP OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

1. That the Rev. Wm. Reid, M.A., and the Rev. Professor J. H. Mackerras, M.A., be Joint Clerks of the General Assembly, and that the salary of each be two hundred and fifty dollars per annum, exclusive of incidental expenses.

2. That in consideration of the long and faithful services of the Rev. W. Fraser, he be appointed one of the Clerks of the General Assembly, with his former salary of one hundred and fifty dollars per annum.

II. PERIODICALS.

1. That there be but one Periodical for the whole Church, to be called "*The Presbyterian Record*." 2. That the same be published every month in the City of Montreal, at the rate of twenty-five cents per copy per annum, when taken in quantities. 3. That James Croil, Esq., be appointed Editor, at an annual salary of six hundred dollars, and that a Committee be appointed to arrange for the publication of said periodical at the commencement of next year.

III. AGENCY.

It is recommended that the services of the Rev. Wm. Reid, M.A., and the Rev. P. G. McGregor, be retained in connection with the general work of the Church, that the salary of each be two thousand dollars per annum, and that a small Committee be appointed to define their respective duties.

At a subsequent sed. runt, the following Committees on Agency and Periodicals were appointed :

I. COMMITTEE ON AGENCY.

Dr. Topp, Convener, Principal Caven, Dr. Cochrane, Professor Gregg, Professor McLaren, Messrs. D. J. Macdonnell, and D. H. Fletcher, Ministers, and the Hon. J. McMurrieh, Elder.

Messrs. Thomas Sedgwick, Vice-Convener, John Campbell, and John Forrest, Ministers, and Mr. Charles Robson, Elder.

II. THE "PRESBYTERIAN RECORD."

Dr. Jenkins, Convener; Principal McVicar, Vice-Convener; Dr. Taylor, Professor Campbell, Messrs. R. Campbell, J. Scrimger, and W. M. Black, Ministers; and Professor Murray, Messrs. J. L. Morris, Warden King and W. D. McLaren, Elders; with the following as corresponding members:—Principal Snodgrass, Principal Caven, Dr. Cook, Dr. Topp, Professor Mackerras, Professor Pollock, Messrs. W. Reid, W. Fraser, and P. G. McGregor, Ministers.

The same Committee was appointed to obtain full information respecting the publication of a Children's Record, and to Report to next General Assembly.

III.—PARLIAMENTARY LEGISLATION.

At the first diet of the Committee, this subject was fully considered, and after reasoning, a sub-Committee was appointed to consider whether any legislation should be sought from the Dominion Parliament, and whether also any modification of the legislation obtained from the Local Parliaments should be applied for, and to report to this Committee.

On this Report being presented, diversity of opinion was found to exist as to the expediency of incorporating the Church, and as to whether the Church, as a whole, or the General Assembly should be the incorporated body. Ultimately the question resolved itself into this, shall there be any application to the Dominion Parliament, at its next meeting, for such legislation as may be necessary? or shall the advice of counsel be simply secured as to the advantages of such legislation, and the result reported to the Committee in June next?

After reasoning, the following deliverance was agreed to by a majority of votes.

That it be referred to the same sub-Committee to obtain, under the advice of Counsel, such Legislation of the Dominion Parliament as may be deemed necessary to confirm the Acts of the several Local Legislatures under which the properties held by the uniting Churches passed to the Presbyterian Church in Canada; but that in reference to the question of incorporating the General Assembly or the Church, this question be referred to the General Assembly at its next meeting.

The Committee on Parliamentary Legislation was appointed as follows:

Principal Snodgrass, Convener; Mr. Thos. W. Taylor, Vice-Convener; Mr. J. Croil, Vice-Convener; Dr. Jenkins, Principal Caven, Professor Mackerras, Professor McLaren, Messrs. A. Young, R. Campbell, W. Reid, Ministers; and Judge Stevens, and Messrs. J. L. Morris and J. Cross, Elders.

IV. HOME MISSIONS.

This subject was carefully considered, and occupied a large portion of the time of the Committee.

The chief points of difference were the three following :

1. Shall there be a Central Committee for Home Missions?
2. Shall there be one fund for Home Mission purposes, and for supplementing the Stipends of Ministers ; or shall there be two separate Funds,—one for Home Mission work and the other for Supplementing Stipends?
3. Shall the appointment of a Mission Agent be recommended?

The decision on the first point was, that there shall be a Central Committee, dividing itself into two sections, the one embracing the Maritime Provinces and the other the rest of the Church.

In regard to the second question, the Committee was nearly equally divided, —the former plan being first adopted, and ultimately the latter, by a majority, as embodied in Section IV. of the subjoined Report.

As regards the appointment of a Mission Agent, the following deliverance was passed :—

That the Committee does not see the way at present open to recommend to the General Assembly the appointment of a Mission Secretary.

The following is the scheme for carrying on the work of Home Missions, and of Supplementing Stipends, which the Committee have resolved to recommend to the General Assembly :

I. That the Assembly shall appoint annually a Home Mission Committee consisting of 45 Members, of whom one-third shall be from the Maritime Provinces, and two thirds from the rest of the Church ; that each of these divisions shall constitute a sub-committee for the transaction of business in its own district.

II. That each section shall be empowered to act separately in conducting the business of its respective district.

III. The operations of the Committee shall have respect to—

1. *Mission Stations*, which, having been recommended by Presbyteries and approved by the Committee, shall be placed on the list of Aid-Receiving Stations and Mission Stations, directly under the care of the H. M. Committee ; provided always that no application for aid shall be entertained by the Committee on behalf of any station, unless the Presbytery of the bounds shall have made arrangements with the people for paying, according to their ability, the salary of the missionary ; and the Presbytery shall see to the implementing of such engagements. And the Committee shall make like arrangements in the case of stations under its care.

2. Mission Stations reported by Presbyteries, but not receiving aid.

3. Not self-sustaining, but prepared to contribute at least \$400 per annum, at the rate of at least \$4.50 per communicant, or \$6 per family, and in which, in the judgment of the Presbytery, a fixed pastor is desirable. Such congregations having made application to the Presbytery of the bounds, and furnished satisfactory information in regard to their statistics, and financial position and pro-

spects, and having received the approval of the Presbytery, (which application and information shall also be laid before the sub Committee,) may be placed on the list of congregations receiving supplement.

Provided always, that congregations at present receiving aid shall continue on the list in the meantime, but that Presbyteries be instructed to use diligence in order to bring up such congregations to the rate of salary and contribution required by the next regulation.

4. That the minimum stipend, exclusive of manse, to be paid to the ministers of supplemented congregations, from all sources, shall be seven hundred dollars per annum.

In accepting the foregoing Resolution, it is earnestly recommended that during the term that must intervene before that recommendation can be adopted and enforced, strenuous exertions should be made by the Presbyteries throughout the Church, to bring the stipends of all congregations, not supplemented, up to, at least, the same standard.

IV. MISSIONARIES AND FUNDS.

1. The list of Missionaries shall consist of ordained Ministers and Licentiates of this Church ; and Students of Divinity, and Catechists, duly approved as the Assembly may direct. Each of these Missionaries shall be recommended to the Committee by some Presbytery.

2. There shall be two Central Funds,—one for the support of Mission Stations and for Home Mission work generally, the other for the assistance of congregations requiring supplement,—to be known respectively as the Home Mission Fund and the Supplemental Fund. These funds shall consist of all moneys contributed for their support, whether by contributions from the Congregations, Mission Stations, and Sabbath Schools of the Church, or by grants of money from Foreign Churches, or of moneys accruing from other sources, such as legacies, donations and other kindred contributions.

V. THE DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE SHALL BE—

1. To prepare and send down to Presbyteries and Missionaries, blank forms for their reports, so as to ascertain the peculiar circumstances, necessities, and generally the state of the Mission Stations and Supplemented Congregations throughout the Church.

2. The sub-Committees shall consider the Reports thus rendered by Presbyteries, and distribute the Missionaries among the Presbyteries, as, in view of the detailed information before them, may be deemed advisable.

3. The sub-Committees shall give such aid to Mission Stations and Supplemented Congregations, in paying their Missionaries or Ministers, as, in view of the detailed information before them, may be deemed advisable.

4. The General Committee shall prepare a full Annual Report of all the Home Mission and Supplemental operations of the Church, to be submitted to the Assembly, and to publish, from time to time, such information as may serve to call forth the interest and liberality of the Church.

5. The sub-Committees shall be empowered, in those parts of the Dominion which are not within the bounds of any Presbytery, to establish Mission Stations and conduct Missionary operations directly.

6. That, in Mission fields placed directly under the Home Mission Committees, and in new and destitute fields of wide extent within the bounds of Presbyteries, the sub-Committees shall be empowered—acting in the latter case in concert with the Presbytery of the bounds—to secure the services of suitable Missionaries, who may be willing to occupy them for a term of years, and to pay them in excess of the ordinary salary paid to Missionaries.

7. The Committee shall not be responsible for the salary of Missionaries beyond the amount of aid promised to the Stations or Congregations by it, and for the time during which they may have laboured in said Stations or Congregations.

8. The amount of salary to be paid by each Congregation, Station or group of Stations, shall be determined by the Presbytery of the bounds, and specified to the sub-Committees, and it is recommended that a minimum be aimed at by the Presbytery and sub-Committees conjointly, of eight dollars (\$8) per Sabbath for an ordained Minister or a Licentiate, with board; for a Student of Divinity, during the summer, at the rate of six dollars (\$6) per Sabbath, with board and travelling expenses to the field of labour; and for a Catechist, five dollars (\$5) per Sabbath, with board.

9. The amount of aid granted to any Congregation receiving Supplement, shall in no case exceed the amount necessary to make the salary of the Minister seven hundred dollars. But the sub-Committees are empowered to supplement the salaries of ordained Ministers, engaged in Mission work in towns and cities, beyond that amount.

10. That the Supplement of all aid-receiving Congregations shall be calculated from the first day of the ecclesiastical year, and that the Presbyteries be instructed to make their reports accordingly—supplements being payable half-yearly.

11. That Presbyteries be instructed, at an ordinary meeting previous to the first of October in each year, to revise the list of Mission Stations and Supplemented Congregations, and make such changes as they may deem necessary, reporting the amended lists to the sub-Committee, and that the lists thus amended, form the basis of the operations of the Committee for the then current year.

VI. GENERAL REGULATIONS.

1. Presbyteries are enjoined to furnish information to the sub-Committees in accordance with the requirements of the above scheme, and to co-operate with the Committee.

2. All Congregations and Mission Stations shall be enjoined to make an annual contribution to each of the funds.

3. The travelling expenses of Members of Committee shall be borne equally by the two funds, and the cost of all exploring and aggressive Missionary work, undertaken and sanctioned by Presbyteries, shall be defrayed out of the Home Mission Fund.

4. In regard to arrears due by Supplemented Congregations to their Ministers, these congregations shall be required to report to this Committee, through the Presbytery, in the form provided, before the beginning of each ecclesiastical year, the amount paid by them as stipend during the previous twelve months; and that in cases where the amount falls short of the stipend promised by them, power be given to suspend the payment of the supplement until the arrearages are liquidated.

VII. PROBATIONERS AND VACANCIES.

1. That the distribution of Probationers shall be left in the hands of a sub-Committee, appointed from the Home Mission Committee. The roll of Probationers shall consist of Preachers who have been licensed less than five years, and Ministers who have been loosed from their charges, or who have been receiving appointments from the Committee less than four years, (reckoning, in both cases, from the date of their admission to the roll.)

3. Preachers who have been on the roll for five years, and Ministers for four years without settlement, shall have their names removed from the list: allowance being made in all cases of sickness, leave of absence, or time occupied in the public business of the Church or Mission work, apart from fulfilling regular appointments. Provided, also, that the Assembly alone may order the retention of a Probationer's name on the list beyond the above specified times.

4. That Ministers or Probationers, who have retired from the Ministry and entered on some other calling for a time, shall not have their names put on the list of distribution without the permission of the General Assembly to that effect.

5. Probationers, concerning whom complaints of inefficiency have been received from their Presbyteries by the Committee, may have their appointments withdrawn till a decision of the Assembly shall be given in the case.

6. As soon as a Preacher is licensed, the Presbytery reports the fact to the Committee on Distribution, to whom is entrusted the distribution of Probationers among the Presbyteries of the Church.

7. When a Congregation desire a hearing of a particular Probationer, or a further hearing of one formerly heard, they shall communicate their desire to the Presbytery, and if the Presbytery see it expedient to concur in it, the application is transmitted to the Convener of the Distributing Committee, and as soon as practicable, effect is given to the request; it being understood that in case any extra expense is incurred by the probationer, it is to be defrayed by the Congregation in addition to the ordinary allowance.

8. When a preacher accepts a call, he shall give notice to the Convener of the Distributing Committee, and no further appointments are made to him; but he shall be required to fulfil the appointments already made, unless relieved by the Presbytery to whose bounds he has been designated.

9. Missionaries and Probationers shall be required to labour in the localities and discharge the duties assigned to them by the Presbyteries, at whose disposal they may have been placed by the Home Mission Committee.

These duties comprise, generally, conducting Public Worship on Sabbath, and Prayer Meetings in the course of the week, teaching Bible Classes, organizing and fostering Sabbath Schools, visitation of families—and especially of the sick—so far as circumstances render advisable.

10. Missionaries and Probationers are required to submit to Presbyteries written reports of their labours.

VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. That the General Assembly take into consideration the commencement of the Ecclesiastical year.

2. That sub-Treasurers be appointed, if necessary, in the sub-Committees on Home Mission and Supplemental Funds,

3. That the Committee on correspondence with other Churches present the claims of our Home Missions upon the Presbyterian Churches of Great Britain and Ireland.

V. FOREIGN MISSIONS.

This subject led to no difference of opinion, and the undermentioned deliverance, prepared by a sub-Committee, was adopted unanimously—

1. There shall be a central fund, to be designated the Foreign Mission Fund, from which the operations of the Church in the Foreign Mission department of her work shall be sustained; and all the Congregations and Home Mission Stations throughout the Church shall be required to make an annual contribution to this Fund.

2. There shall be one Board appointed annually by the General Assembly for the direction of the Foreign Mission work of the Church, and it shall be the duty of said Board—1. To administer the funds provided for Foreign Mission purposes, and render an account of the same to the General Assembly at its Annual Meeting. 2. To take the oversight of the Missionaries now engaged, or who may hereafter be engaged in the service of the Church, and to issue, from time to time, to said Missionaries, such orders and instructions as may be deemed necessary. 3. To seek out such Ministers, or others as may be willing to undertake Foreign Mission work, to judge of their qualifications, and, where necessary, to conduct their preparatory training, and to appoint them to their particular fields of labour.

3. The Foreign Mission Board shall in the meantime be divided into two, sections, one comprising the members in Ontario, Quebec, and the North-west and the others the members in the Maritime Provinces, each of these Sections to have special charge of the Missions now existing in connection with the Western and Eastern portions of the Church, respectively, and such other Missions as may hereafter, by the General Assembly be assigned to any, or either of them, and the two Sections of that Board shall, during the year, hold, at least, one joint meeting, and shall combine the reports of their operations in their respective Sections, to be submitted year by year, to the General Assembly.

4. The travelling expenses of Members of the Foreign Mission Board, in attending meetings of the Board, with all other incidental charges, connected

with the transaction of the business entrusted to it, shall be defrayed from the Foreign Mission Fund.

FRENCH EVANGELIZATION.

On this matter being brought up, the following deliverance was adopted :

“That, inasmuch as the General Assembly has taken definite action on this subject, the Committee is not called upon to consider it.”

VI. COLLEGES, EDUCATION FOR THE MINISTRY, AND EXAMINATION OF STUDENTS.

The Colleges, regarding whose state and prospects information was obtained by the Committee, were Dalhousie College; Halifax Theological Hall; Morrin College, Quebec; Montreal Presbyterian College; Queen's College, Kingston; Knox College, Toronto; and Manitoba College.

The principal subject of discussion was the mode of support—whether there should be a common College Fund, to be raised under the direction of the General Assembly, and from which the various Theological Halls should be sustained, as far as necessary, or whether there should be an assignment of territory to each College. It was found that a majority voted for the former, whilst several declined to vote. But in the meantime the following report of a sub-Committee, appointed to consider the whole subject, was adopted as the recommendation of the Committee to the General Assembly.

I. THEOLOGICAL HALLS.

The following statements were made regarding the present equipment and necessities of Theological Halls.

1. KNOX COLLEGE has a staff of three Professors, one Lecturer, two Tutors, and one Lecturer on Elocution.

The estimated expenditure (including portion of retiring allowance to Dr. Willis) is eleven thousand dollars (\$11,000). The amount invested is six thousand two hundred dollars (6,200), yielding a revenue of about three hundred and seventy dollars (\$370) annually. The remainder of the expenditure is required to be raised by collections.

2. THE THEOLOGICAL HALL OF QUEEN'S COLLEGE has two Professors. The amount required from collections to meet present expenditure is two thousand dollars (\$2,000).

3. THE MONTREAL PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE has two Professors, one Lecturer, one Tutor, and a Teacher of Elocution.

The estimated expenditure is eight thousand dollars (\$8,000), of which the sum of fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500) is provided by endowment, leaving six thousand five hundred dollars (\$6,500) to be raised by collections.

4. MORRIN COLLEGE asks no aid at present from the Church.

5. THE THEOLOGICAL HALL AT HALIFAX has three Professors. The salary of one Professor is guaranteed for a time by the Church of Scotland, in the expectation that an early effort will be made to endow the Institution.

Estimating the salaries of Professors at two thousand dollars each, the amount required to be raised by collection is five thousand dollars (\$5,000).

The total sum required in order to maintain the existing state of things is, therefore, about twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000). Should an additional Professor be appointed in Queen's College and Montreal College respectively, the amount would be increased to about \$30,000.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. It is expedient that the territorial principle should, for the present, be adopted in the scheme for supporting the Theological Institutions of the Church.

2. The congregations in Maritime Provinces shall be the constituency for the support of the Theological Hall at Halifax.

3. The congregations in the Province of Quebec, and those in the Province of Ontario, on the east side of the St. Lawrence and Ottawa Railway, shall contribute towards the support of the Presbyterian College at Montreal; and those congregations west of the St. Lawrence and Ottawa Railway, shall contribute towards the support of Queen's College and Knox College.

4. Inasmuch as Morrin College seeks no aid from the Church at present, the Committee make no recommendation concerning the mode of its support.

III. THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION AND EXAMINATION OF STUDENTS.

After some conversation on the practice of the several Churches regarding Education for the Ministry and Examination of Students, it was agreed to appoint a small sub-committee to draft regulations on these subjects.

IV. MANITOBA COLLEGE.

With reference to Manitoba College, as no opportunity had been afforded to the sub-Committee on Colleges of meeting with the sub-Committee on Home Missions, as had been directed, it was agreed that the resolution of the Committee, given below, be carried out, and that Manitoba College continue to be supported in the meantime from Home Mission funds,

After lengthened deliberation the following was adopted as the recommendation of the Committee.

1. "That Manitoba College should be maintained in efficiency.
2. "That, while in the meantime it is necessary that the funds of the Home Mission Committee shall be drawn upon for the support of this Institution, it is not desirable that this College shall continue to be a permanent charge upon the Home Mission Fund."

VII. (1.) MINISTERS' WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND.

This subject was, after explanations had been given regarding the Funds of the several Churches, referred to a Sub-Committee, who brought in a Report, which, after certain amendments had been made, was adopted, as follows, and the Committee resolved to recommend accordingly:—

1. That one Fund be created for the whole Church.

2. That the terms of the Act of the Province of Quebec, 38 Victoria, chapter lxi., relating to the Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund of the late Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland, providing, that in the event of the amalgamation of that fund with the funds of the other Churches that were parties to the recent Union, "no widow or orphan of a minister who had formerly belonged to the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland, shall receive less annuities from the fund of the United Church than would have pertained to them in terms of the scale in force by this Board at the date of Union, if the said Churches had not united," be accepted; and an amalgamation of the four funds be effected.

3. That in addition to the revenue derived from the capital sum, formed by the uniting of the four funds presently existing, the fund shall be maintained by an annual contribution from each minister and congregation.

4. That the rate of ministerial contributions shall be as follows:—Ministers of this Church at present not connected with any fund, and any ministers who after this date shall be admitted to participate in the benefits of the fund, under 35 years of age, shall pay into the fund annually \$8.00; such as are between 35 and 40 years of age, \$10.00; those who are between 40 and 50 years of age shall pay \$12.00 per annum. The application of any minister over 50 years of age to be admitted to the benefits of the fund shall be made the subject of special consideration.

5. That the allowances to widows from the common fund be equal; the case of the widows of the ministers formerly belonging to the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland, as already provided for, only excepted; provided also that no widow at present receiving an annuity from any of the funds, nor the widow of any minister of the united Church, who had formerly belonged to the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland, shall receive a less allowance than \$150 a-year.

6. That the following be the scale of annuities payable to widows and orphans:—Each widow shall receive \$150 per annum. If a widow have children, in addition to her own annuity, she shall receive for one child \$20 per annum, for two children \$36 per annum, for three children \$50 per annum, and \$10 per annum for each additional child; but she shall not receive anything from the fund for boys over 18 years of age, or for girls over 21 years of age.

7. In the event of the decease of both parents, if there be only one orphan, the Board shall pay for the benefit of such orphan \$150.00; if there are two orphans, \$20.00 shall be added to the allowance made for one; if there are three orphans, \$16.00 more shall be paid on their behalf; and if there are four orphans, \$14.00 shall be added to the allowance; and \$10.00 shall be given for each additional orphan; but no allowance shall be made for boys over 18 years of age, or for girls over 21 years of age.

8. That, on behalf of Professors, Foreign Missionaries, Missionaries under the French Evangelization Committee, Ministers on the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, or who have retired from active duty, with permission of the

Church, and for whom no aid is sought from the fund for Aged and Infirm Ministers, and the Agents of the Church, who shall be on the fund of the United Church, the sum of twelve dollars shall, in addition to the personal rate, after the amalgamation of the funds, be paid to this fund, from the funds with which they are respectively connected.

9. Any Minister withdrawing from the Church, shall continue to enjoy his rights in this fund on condition of his paying annually into the fund such sum as an actuary may determine to be equitable in addition to personal rates.

10. That it be an instruction to Presbyteries to use all lawful endeavours to secure that every Minister, when he is inducted into a charge, shall become connected with the fund.

11. That any Minister, who may at the time of his induction decline to join the fund, may be allowed to do so within four years from the date of his induction, on condition of his contributing a sum equivalent to the total payments he should have made, provided he had connected himself with the fund at his induction, together with an addition of one dollar a year for each year he has declined to contribute to the fund after his induction.

12. The rates of payment may be revised once in every five years.

13. That an actuary be employed to examine the funds presently existing, and report to the committee as to the most equitable way in which the amalgamation can be effected, and that the Treasurers of the several funds be instructed to furnish the data which such actuary may require.

14. That the General Assembly be asked to appoint a Committee to obtain the legislation necessary to amalgamate the four funds now in existence in the Church, on the terms that may be agreed upon.

VII. (2). AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS' FUND.

The same sub-Committee submitted a Report on this fund, which, after being considered, was adopted as the recommendation of the Committee to the Assembly.

1. That there shall be a fund for the whole church.

2. That it shall be sustained by annual congregational contributions, donations and bequests.

3. That payments out of the fund shall be made according to the following scale:

(1). When a Minister is allowed by the Assembly to retire after ten years service, he shall receive one hundred dollars (\$100) a year, and ten dollars a year for each additional year, up to forty years' service, if the state of the fund permits.

(2). The case of a Minister permitted to retire after less than ten years' service, shall be made the subject of special consideration by the Assembly.

4. That it be an instruction to Presbyteries, when accepting the resignation of Ministers, permitted by the Assembly to retire, to secure, when practicable, a suitable retiring allowance to such Ministers, from the congregations which they had served.

VIII. ECCLESIASTICAL PROCEDURE, &c.

Under this head were included Ecclesiastical Procedure, Synodical Functions and Business, Standing Orders for the conduct of business in the Church Courts, Regulations anent the Records of Church Courts, the Formula and Questions to office-bearers, and admission of Ministers from other Churches.

These several matters were entrusted to a Sub-committee, whose Report was, after certain changes had been made, adopted as the recommendation of the Committee, and is as follows:—

1. That the questions to be put to office-bearers at their Ordination or Induction be—

1. Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God and the only infalible rule of faith and manners?

2. Do you believe the Westminster Confession of Faith as adopted by this Church in the Basis of Union, to be founded on and agreeable to the Word of God, and in your teaching will you faithfully adhere thereto?

3. Do you believe the Government of this Church by Sessions, Presbyteries, Synods, and General Assemblies to be founded on and agreeable to the Word of God, and do you engage as a minister of this Church to maintain and defend the same?

4. Do you own the purity of worship at present authorized by this Church, and will you conform thereto?

5. Do you promise to give a dutiful attendance in the Courts of this Church, to submit yourself in the spirit of meekness to the admonitions of this Presbytery, to be subject to it and the superior judicatories, to follow no divisive course, but maintain according to your power the unity and peace of the Church.

6. Are zeal for the glory of God, love to the Lord Jesus Christ, and desire of saving souls, so far as you know your own heart, your great motives and chief inducements to enter the office of the holy ministry.

7. Have you directly or indirectly used any undue means to procure this call?

8. Do you engage in the strength and grace of the Lord Jesus Christ to live a holy and circumspect life, to rule well your own house, and faithfully and diligently to discharge all the duties of the ministry to the edification of the body of Christ?

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT TO CANDIDATES FOR LICENSE TO PREACH THE GOSPEL.

Numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, as above.

5. Do you engage in the strength and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ to live a holy and circumspect life, and faithfully to preach the gospel, as you may have opportunity?

6. Do you promise to submit yourself in the Lord to the several judicatories of this Church?

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT TO ELDERS BEFORE ORDINATION.

Numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, (omitting "in your teaching" in No. 2) and substituting in No. 3, "ruling elder" for "minister."

5. In accepting the office of Elder, do you engage in the strength and grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, faithfully and diligently to perform the duties thereof; watching over the flock of which you are called to be an overseer, and in all things showing yourself a pattern of good works?

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT TO DEACONS BEFORE ORDINATION.

Numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, (*Mutatis mutandis*.)

5. In accepting the office of Deacon, do you engage in the strength and grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, faithfully and diligently to perform the duties thereof?

II. That the Formula to be signed by Ministers and Licentiates, Elders and Deacons, be:

"I hereby declare that I believe the Westminster Confession of Faith, as adopted by this Church as the basis of Union, and the Government of the Church by Sessions, Presbyteries, Synods and General Assemblies, to be founded on and agreeable to the Word of God: that I own the purity of Worship at present authorised by this Church: and that I engage to adhere faithfully to the doctrine of the said Confession, to maintain and defend the said Government, to conform to the said worship, and to submit to the discipline of this Church, and to follow no divisive course from the present order established therein."

III. That the Standing Orders of the Supreme Court be:—

1. Reports of Ordinations, Inductions, Licensure, Deaths, Demissions, Suspensions, Depositions of Ministers, and of the erection or dissolution of congregations within the respective Synods, shall be sent up by Clerks of these Courts so as to be in the hands of the Clerk of Assembly at least eight days before the Assembly meets.

A large portion of the second Sederunt, and such portions of other diets as the Moderator of Assembly may think proper, shall be spent in devotional services.

2. There shall be a Standing Committee on Business, consisting of the Clerks of the Assembly, and of Synods and Presbyteries, who may be Commissioners, who shall arrange all such business as may be requisite previous to the first diet of the annual meeting of the Assembly. This Committee, together with fifteen members to be appointed by the Assembly, shall constitute the Committee on Bills and Overtures. The Assembly Clerks shall be joint-Conveners of these Committees. After the arrangement of business has been reported by the Committee of Bills and Overtures, and sanctioned by the Assembly, the Clerks of the Assembly shall cause a docket of business to be printed for the information of members.

3. All papers shall be transmitted to one of the Clerks of the Assembly at least eight days before the meeting of Assembly, and all such papers shall pass through the Committee of Bills and Overtures before presentation to the Assembly.

4. In order that all documents coming before the Assembly may be preserved in a form convenient for reference, Reports, Overtures, References, Appeals, Extract Minutes, and all other matters whatsoever, intended to be submitted to the Assembly, shall be written on foolscap paper, with sufficient margins so as to admit of their being bound in volumes; and, for the sake of securing fully the ends of Justice, parties who have causes to bring before the Assembly, are recommended to print copies of the same in numbers sufficient for the use of members, and in a shape suitable for binding along with the printed Minutes of Assembly.

5. The Conveners of Standing Committees shall give in their annual reports to the Committee of Bills and Overtures, if possible, not later than the second sederunt of the meeting of the Assembly. If these are in printed form they shall be in a shape suitable for binding along with the printed Minutes of Assembly.

6. The Assembly shall appoint a Committee, of not less than two from each Synod, and not more than four from any one Synod, to nominate members for the Standing Committees of the Assembly.

IV. THAT THE REGULATIONS ANENT THE RECORDS OF CHURCH COURTS BE—

1. The pages shall be numbered in words at length as well as in figures.

2. Every page shall be signed by the Clerk, and the Record of each sederunt by the Moderator and Clerk. In case of the death or removal of the Moderator or Clerk, the Record shall afterwards be signed by the then acting Moderator or Clerk, *cum nota* of the cause, in presence of the Court.

3. The time and place of meeting shall be minutely stated in words.

4. Every page shall have a suitable margin on which the items of recorded business, etc. shall be indexed.

5. The place and date of each meeting shall be shortly indicated on the margin at the top of the page.

6. Church Courts shall take special care that their Records are carefully and correctly written. All erasures or other changes in the Record shall be noted on the margin with the initials of the Clerk's name.

7. All sums of money shall be given in words as well as in figures.

8. No unnecessary vacant spaces shall be left between the Minutes of Sederunts.

V. THAT THE BARRIER ACT BE—

1. No proposed law or rule relative to matters of doctrine, discipline, government, or worship, shall become a permanent enactment until the same has been submitted to Presbyteries for consideration. Such consideration shall be given by each Presbytery, at an ordinary meeting, or a special meeting held for the purpose; and an extract minute of the Presbytery's judgment shall be sent to the Clerk of the General Assembly, before the next meeting of that Court.

2. The Assembly, if it sees cause, may, by a majority of two-thirds of those present, pass such proposed law or rule into an Interim Act, which shall possess the force of law until the Presbyteries have, as herein required, reported their judgment upon it to the next General Assembly.

3. If a majority of the Presbyteries of the Church express their approval, the Assembly may pass such proposed law or rule into a standing law of the Church. If a majority of the Presbyteries express disapproval, the Assembly shall reject such proposed law or rule, or again remit it to the Presbyteries.

6. That the Sub-Committee be continued, with power to divide itself into several parts, for the mature consideration of the matters entrusted to it, and that the name of Rev. G. M. Grant be added to the Committee.

The Sub-Committee on Ecclesiastical Procedure, etc., is as follows :—Dr. G. Bell, Convener ; Principal Snodgrass, Principal Caven, Dr. Waters, Dr. Paterson, Professor Mackerras, Professor Gregg, Messrs. T. Sedgwick, J. Middlemiss, J. Laing, W. Reid, R. Campbell, W. Fraser, J. G. Robb, and G. M. Grant, Ministers, and Mr. T. W. Taylor and Judge Stevens, Elders.

IX. MEMORIAL FUND.

This matter was remitted to a Sub-Committee, consisting of the Rev. W. Fraser and the Rev. J. Gray, to mature a scheme to be submitted to the next meeting of the General Committee, when it could be fully and carefully considered.

X. TRAVELLING EXPENSES OF MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE.

The matter of paying the expenses of the members of Committee was brought up for consideration, and the Committee, while agreed as to the equity of such payment, decided to leave the whole subject in the hands of the General Assembly.

The Committee agreed to hold its next meeting at the call of the Convener, Dr. Topp.

After singing the last three verses of the 122nd Psalm, the Convener, *pro tem.*, the Rev. T. Macpherson, closed the proceedings with prayer, at eleven o'clock, p.m.

P. G. MACGREGOR, } *Joint Clerks of Committee.*
JOHN GRAY, }

SEPTEMBER, 1875.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS OF THE MINISTERS' WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND.

(Late of the Synod in connection with the *Church of Scotland*.)

The Board of Managers of the Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund beg respectfully to submit for the information of those interested, the following report for the year just ended.

The collections received from charges during the year have amounted to \$1,758.03, while last year they reached the sum of \$2,191.52. The reason of the falling off is that in present circumstances certain Churches, formerly liberal contributors, withheld their usual contributions. The congregational collections in detail are herewith submitted as part of the Treasurer's statement. The amount received from Ministers has been \$1,634.00. The interest accrued on investments has amounted to \$5,380.40, which with the bequest of the late Mrs. McIntyre, makes a total income for the year of \$8,872.43. Paid to Widows and Orphans the sum of \$5,506.00, leaving a balance, after deducting expenses, of \$2,960.03 to be carried to the endowment fund, which now amounts to \$82,169.00 invested in first class mortgages.

The number of widows entitled to annuities from the fund is 35. The heirs George, however, receive at a widow's rate. The annuities range from \$82.00 to \$350.00. The number of orphans participating in the benefits of the fund is 36.

A suit was instituted in the Superior Court, Montreal, at the instance of the Rev. Mr. Simpson, a member of the Board, on behalf of those Ministers of the formerly designated Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland, who declined to enter the united Church, claiming that the present managers should hand over to them the funds in their possession. Judgment was rendered in favour of the Board by the late Justice Beaudry ; but the case was carried by appeal of the Plaintiff to the Court of Queen's Bench of the Province of Quebec, before which argument was held at the last term ; and judgment may be expected at the opening of the next term.

The Board trust that arrangements will be speedily made for bringing the several Widows' and Orphans' Funds of the Assembly under one management ; and to facilitate such

arrangements, they are preparing a list of the average contributions at this date, by which the rights of Ministers' widows on the fund are determined according to the By-Laws of the Board, and which are reserved by the Act of Parliament securing this fund to those connected with the United Church.

Thanks are due to Archibald Ferguson, Esq., who has so long discharged with ability and faithfulness the duties of Treasurer to this scheme. His annual statement is herewith appended.

As usual the list of charges that have not contributed to the fund, although enjoined to do so for the past year, is also added to the Treasurer's report.

All which is respectfully submitted.

ROBERT CAMPBELL,

Chairman of the Board.

Montreal, 1st June, 1876.

CONGREGATIONAL COLLECTIONS.

Almonte.....	per Rev. John Bennett	\$40.00
Arnprior	" D. J. McLean	21.25
Belleville.....	" Archd. Walker.....	12.00
Belleville.....	" M. W. McLean.....	30.00
Balsover.....	" J. T. Paul.....	4.00
Buckingham.....	" Frederick Home.....	15.00
Beechridge	" John McDonald	9.00
Beckwith.....	" Walter Ross.....	16.00
Brock	" Archd. Currie	12 00
Chelsea	" Alex. Smith.....	14.00
Chatham	" John Rannie	12.00
Coulonge	" Jos. Gandier	12.00
Cornwall	" Neil McNish, LL.D....	70.00
Dalhousie & Middleville	" William Cochrane	17.00
Dorchester, North	" James Gordon.....	12.00
Darlington.....	" Adam Spenser.....	8.00
East Williams.....	" Robert Chambers	10.00
Elgin and Athelstan.....	" John S. Lochead.....	16.00
Fergus	" J. B. Mullan.....	24 00
Finch	" H. Lamont, D.D.....	6 00
Goderich	" J. Sieveright	25.00
Guelph	" John Hogg, D.D.....	30.00
Georgetown.....	" James C. Muir, D.D....	12.00
Georgina	" D. P. Niven	5.00
Galt	" Wm. Masson.....	18.70
Hamilton, St. Paul's	" J. C. Smith	50.00
Huntingdon	" J. B. Muir.....	12.00
Hornby	" Wm. Stewart	4.00

Hemmingford.....	per Rev. Jas. Patterson.....	12.00
King.....	" J. Carmichael.....	15.00
Kincardine.....	" William Anderson....	10.83
Kingston.....	" T. G. Smith.....	80.00
Kippen.....	" H. Cameron.....	12.00
Lanark.....	" J. Wilson.....	12.50
Lachine.....	" Wm. Simpson.....	35.00
L'Orignal & Hawkesbury....	" J. Fairlie.....	17.50
Litchfield.....	" Jas. Fraser.....	12.00
Matilda.....	" G. Porteous.....	5.00
Markham.....	" J. Carmichael.....	12.00
Mulmer.....	" S. Hutcheson.....	6.00
Melbourne.....	" H. Edmison.....	12.00
Nottawasaga & Purple Hill..	" D. MacDonald.....	12.00
Nelson & Waterdown.....	" E. W. Wait.....	12.50
Nottawasaga, West.....	" Alex. McDonald.....	15.00
North Easthope.....	" J. J. Cameron.....	5.00
Ormistown.....	" D. W. Morison.....	15.00
Ottawa.....	" D. M. Gordon.....	92.75
Osprey.....	" John Ferguson.....	12.00
Oxford.....	" W. T. Canning ...	5.00
Pakenham.....	" Alexander Mann, D.D..	12.00
Perth.....	" William Bain, D.D....	45.00
Peterboro'.....	" Kenneth MacLennan ..	25.00
Pickering.....	" Walter Ross.....	8.00
Quebec.....	" John Cook, D.D.....	80.00
Renfrew.....	" Robt. Campbell.....	30.00
Russelltown.....	" P. S. Livingston.....	12.50
Seymour.....	" Robt. Neill.....	55.00
St. John's, Montreal.....	" C. A. Tanner....	5.00
Smith's Falls.....	" Solomon Mylne.....	12.00
Scarboro & Markham.....	" M. McGillivray.....	30.00
Scott & Uxbridge.....	" A. MacLennan.....	12.00
St. Paul's, Montreal.....	" John Jenkins, D.D. ...	150.00
St. Gabriel's, Montreal.....	" Robert Campbell.....	80.00
Saugeen.....	" D. Fraser.....	12.00
Stirling.....	" J. M. Gray.....	16.00
Sherbrooke.....	" P. Lindsay.....	12.00
Stratford.....	" William T. Wilkins...	40.00
St. Matthew's, Montreal.....	" C. A. Doudiet.....	9.50
Thorah.....	" D. Watson.....	25.00
Toronto.....	" D. J. Macdonnell.....	60.00
Tossorontio & Mulmer.....	" S. Hutcheson.....	6.00
Three Rivers.....	" Jas. McCaul.....	24.00
Vaughan.....	" Wm. Aitken.....	16.00
Williamsburgh.....	" J. Davidson.....	26.00
Walkerton.....	" George Bell, LL.D.....	12.00
Westmeath.....	" Alexr. Campbell.....	15.00

\$1758.03

PAID TO WIDOWS IN JULY, 1875.

Mrs. E. Macdonnell.....	\$88.00	Mrs. Barr	62.00
" McEwen	50.00	" Campbell	69.00
" Grigor	69.00	" McLaurin	91.00
" Millar	91.00	" McKidd	76.00
" Brown	44.00	" Smith	63.00
" Ross and daughters.	80.00	Mr. Kerr for Mrs. George's	
" Roach	81.00	children.....	75.00
" Darrach	86.00	Miss Thompson.....	28.00
" Lambie	50.00	Mrs. R. Bell.....	73.00
" Thom.....	69.00	" Moody	63.00
" McLeod	80.00	" Colquhoun	41.00
" Nicoll	98.00	" McLennan	81.00
" McClatchey	50.00	" Machar	150.00
" McLean	64.00	" E. Bell	63.00
" Wallace	91.00	" Milligan	81.00
" McMurchy	103.00	" Skinner	81.00
" E. Anderson.....	50.00	Miss Mair.....	45.00
" Dickey.....	50.00	Mrs. McLaurin	45.00
" E. Campbell.....	114.00	" Haig.....	50.00
" Muir.....	63.00	" Hunter.....	64.00
" Bryning.....	50.00		
			\$2822.00

PAID TO WIDOWS IN JANUARY, 1876.

Mrs. Colquhoun	\$41.00	Mr. Kerr for Mrs. George's	
" Brown	44.00	children.....	75.00
" Smith	63.00	Mrs. McLaurin.	91.00
" Campbell..	69.00	" Barr	62.00
" McLean.....	64.00	" McLeod.....	80.00
" McClatchey	50.00	" Bryning.....	50.00
" Bell	63.00	" Campbell	114.00
" Dickey.....	50.00	" Mair.....	63.00
" McMurchy	103.00	" Millar	83.00
" Lambie.....	50.00	" Thom.....	69.00
" Hunter.....	64.00	" McKidd	76.00
" Wallace.....	91.00	" Machar	150.00
Miss Thompson	28.00	Miss Mair.....	45.00
Mrs. Nicol	98.00	Mrs. Milligan	81.00
" McLaurin.....	81.00	" Haig.....	50.00
" McEwen	50.00	" Skinner	81.00
" Macdonnell	88.00	" Moody	63.00
" Roach	81.00	" McLaurin	45.00
" Grigor	69.00	" E. Bell	73.00
" Darrach	86.00		
			\$2684.00

GENERAL ACCOUNT CURRENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING
1ST JUNE, 1876.

Balance of last year's account.....	\$1849.28
Congregational collections	1758.03
Interest on loans	5380.40
Temporalities and Sustentation acc'ts... 1634.00	
Returned loans	500.00
Mrs. McIntyre's bequest.....	100.00
	<hr/> \$11,221.71
Invested	\$2900.00
Annuities to widows.....	5506.00
Expenses	406.40
Balance on hand	2409.31
	<hr/> \$11,221.71

The above balance is deposited in the Merchants Bank, which pays interest at 5 per cent.

DEFAULTING CHARGES.

Bayfield & Varna.	Montreal (St. Mark's).
Beauharnois.	Mount Forest.
Brockville.	Mountain & South Gower.
Chatham & Grenville.	Newmarket.
Caledon & Mono.	Niagara.
Clark.	Orangeville.
Clifton.	Osnabruck.
Dalhousie Mills & Cote St. George	Owen Sound & Derby.
Dummer.	Parkhill.
Dundas.	Paisley.
Dundee.	Pittsburgh.
Eldon.	Plantagenet.
Erin.	Port Hope.
Goderich.	Point Levi.
Hamilton (St. Andrew's).	Richmond & Shower's Corners.
Huntley.	Richmond.
Indian Lands & Roxboro.	Roslin & Thurlow.
Lancaster.	Ross.
Leith & Johnson.	Saugeen.
Lindsay.	Simcoe.
Lochiel.	Spencerville.
London.	Valcartier.
Lucknow.	Westminster.
Martintown.	West Gwillimsbury & Innisfil.
Milton.	Woolwich.
Montreal (St. Andrew's).	Whitby.

ARCHIBALD FERGUSON,
Treasurer.

